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CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
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The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER
October 1991

*Members' Meetings*

## *"Stories from the Book of Nature"*

*October 9, 2 & 7:30 pm  October 10, 7:30 pm*

CAS Special Collections

Join us on October 9 and 10, when Earll Kingston performs "Stories from the Book of Nature." This one-man performance highlights the work of writers and poets influential in helping shape our personal visions of the natural world.

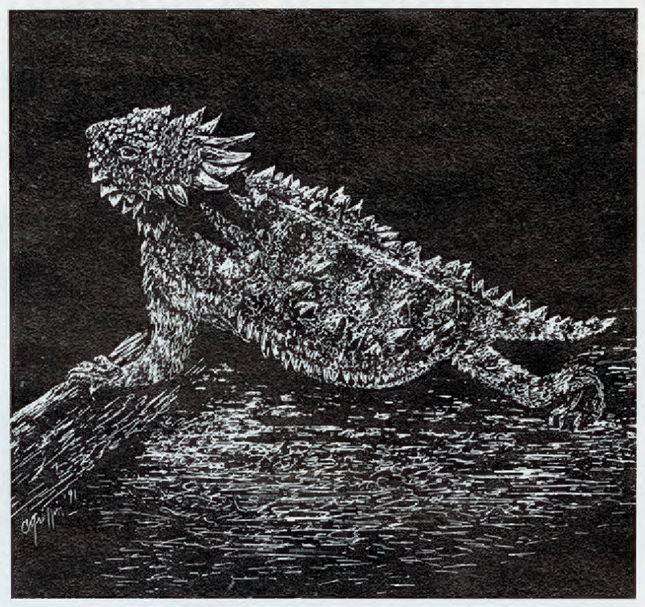
This Members' Meeting will be a departure from our usual lectures by scientists and naturalists. Actor Earll Kingston weaves together dramatic readings with stories of his own, offering a varied and complex perspective of the natural world and our place within it.

Mr. Kingston has selected works by writers and poets who have inspired so many of us. The observations of John Wesley Powell will be brought to life from *The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons.* Kingston will interpret Melville's view on nature from the classic *Moby Dick*, and will recreate the powerful word imagery from Elizabeth Bishop's, *The Rainbow.* The work of Wendell Berry, Gary Snyder, Richard K. Nelson, Loren Eisley, Lew Welch and Oprah Whiteley will also be featured.

With more than 20 years' experience in theatre, Mr. Kingston has performed for the Globe Theater in Hollywood, the Berkeley Repertory Theater, and the Hawaii Performing Arts Company. He is a member of California On Stage, a San Francisco-based group engaged in writing and performing works based on California history.

This unique performance will be held on October 9 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm and on October 10 at 7:30 pm. Next month on November 13 and 14, Helen Norberg-Hodge will lecture on "Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh."

## *Adult Education*



Carolynne Griffin

*Scratchboard drawing*

Here are a few of the many special programs on tap for this Fall. Call 750-7098 for more information.

***The Great Neglected Diseases of Humankind***

Several diseases kill and impair millions of people every year in the developing world. We will survey the organisms that cause diseases and the fascinating mechanisms these organisms have developed to replicate and survive. Included is an optional field trip to see the Stanford labs where such research is being carried out.

***Field Trip:*** October 7–28 (4 Mondays), 7–9 pm
Optional Field Trip: Nov. 2
***Cost:*** $75 mem./$85 non-mem.

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***Atmospheric Optics: Light & Color, Fire & Ice in the Sky***

Why do mirages occur in the desert? Why was there a halo around the moon last night? Find out the answers to these and many other questions about atmospheric phenomena at this fascinating slide lecture.

***Field Trip:*** October 23, 7–9 pm
***Cost:*** $10 mem./$15 non-mem.

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***Special Weekday, Daytime Course Scratchboard Deserted***

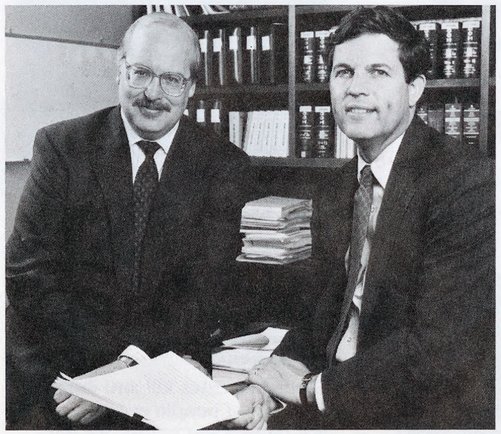
Spiny lizards, kit fox, doves and elf owls: the American desert will be our theme for this workshop. Scratchboard offers the beginner and the experienced artist a new way of looking at the desert.

***Field Trip:*** October 21 and 28, 9:30 am–12:30 pm
***Cost:*** $35 mem./$45 non-mem.

*Seminar*

## *The California Academy of Sciences Presents "Answers to Your Estate Planning Questions"*

***Wednesday, October 30, 4:30–6:30 pm***



Caroline Kopp, CAS

*Scott Thompson and Howie Pearson will help you with your estate planning.*

Whether your estate is a cottage, castle or condo...this seminar will answer your questions and help you conserve and distribute your assets. During the seminar we will discuss practical issues such as:

- Selecting your estate planning advisors
- Transferring your assets
- Using charitable trusts for your benefit and the Academy's
- Recent developments in estate planning and tax-saving strategies.

The seminar speakers are well-known experts in their fields. Howie Pearson and Scott Thomas are partners in the law firm of Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison. Howie attended Stanford University and the University of Utah Law School. Scott is a graduate of Stanford University, received his law degree from Hastings College of Law, and is a member of the Academy's Planned Gift Committee. Both specialize in estate planning and administration, including the preparations of wills, trusts and powers of attorney.

Carol Pollock, the Academy's charitable trust and planned giving consultant, will speak about ways to increase retirement income. Jerry Kay, Media Specialist for the Academy, will moderate the program.

The program starts at 4:30 in the African Annex. Tickets are $4 for members, $6 for non-members. Please use the order form below to order your tickets. Attendance is limited, so please respond by October 23. Call 750-7216 for more information.

### Ticket Order Form

**"Answers To Your Estate Planning Questions"**

**Wed., Oct. 30, 4:30–6:30 pm • __ $4 members __ $6 non-members**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

My Estate Planning Question is: _____

_____

Please send your check payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
The Development Office
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

*The California Academy of Sciences and World Wildlife Fund present:*

## *Wildscreen Films*

***October 8, 16, 24, 30 at 7 pm***

The Academy is featuring a World Wildlife Fund Wildscreen Film Festival during the month of October in the Morrison Auditorium. The festival includes nine different films covering a wealth of diverse subjects from the natural world. The schedule is listed below. Please refer to your September Academy Newsletter for a more detailed description.

Tuesday, October 8: *Eye of the Camel* (50 min.) *Here Be Dragons* (52 min.)

Wednesday, October 16: *The Secret Life of 118 Green Street* (45 mins.) *The Great Wood of Caledon* (52 min.)

Thursday, October 24: *Seasons of the Sea* (54 min.) *The Singing Apes of Khao Yai* (26 min.) *Year of the Flame Bird* (27 min.)

Wednesday, October 30: *The Sisterhood* (49 min.) *Queen of the Beasts* (52 min.)

All programs start at 7:00 pm. Please use the form below to order your tickets. Call 750-7128 for more information.

### Film Series Order Form

WWF

__ Series Tickets $15 mem./$20 non-mem.

__ Tues. Oct. 8, $5 mem./$6 non-mem.

__ Wed. Oct. 16, $5 mem./$6 non-mem.

__ Thurs. Oct. 24, $5 mem./$6 non-mem.

__ Wed. Oct. 30, "Sisterhood" $5 mem./$6 non-mem.

Name _____

Address _____

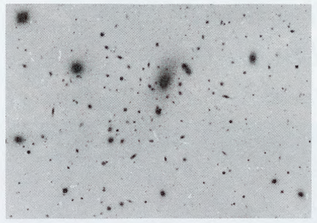
City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Please send **separate checks** for each lecture payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
The Special Programs Office
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

*Lecture Series*

## *"Exploring the Universe"*



Dr. Hyron Spinrad

*Distant cluster of galaxies*

The technical ability of astronomers to obtain images and spectra for very faint galaxies has improved greatly over the last decade. Since galaxies are vast collections of gas and stars, like our Milky Way, they must physically evolve with time. We should be able to directly observe their time-evolution by studying distant, high redshift galaxies.

On Tuesday, October 22, Dr. Hyron Spinrad, Department of Astronomy, UC Berkeley, will provide "A Glimpse at Modern Extragalactic Astronomy."

Additional programs in the series feature Dr. Len Tyler presenting "Visions of Venus: Magellan's Mission to Earth's Sister Planet" on November 12, and Dr. Cynthia Cattell speaking on "Aurora Borealis: On Earth and Outer Planets" on December 17. All programs begin at 7:30 pm in the Planetarium. Tickets are $2 and are available at the door on a standby first-come, first-served basis. For ticket information, call 750-7129.

## *Morrison Planetarium*

The current feature at the Planetarium is "Weather of the Worlds." Learn how the solar system is teeming with climatic activity, from dust storms on Mars to the hurricane-like storms of Jupiter's Red Spot. Shows are at 2 pm daily and 1,2,3 and 4 pm on weekends. Call 750-7141 for more information.

## *Run to the Far Side VII*

***Sunday, Dec. 1, 8:30 start***

The Far Side © 1991 Universal Press Syndicate. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

It's that crazy time of year when cavemen crawl out of their caves, vegetarians carrying 6-foot carrots return from an early kill, and cows roam the roads in Golden Gate Park.

It's time to *Run to the Far Side VII!* This annual tribute to the zany comic creations of Gary Larson promises to be as fun as ever.

It also promises to be as big as ever, and the Academy needs lots of volunteers to help make it the memorable event everyone looks forward to. There are many different volunteer opportunities, and every volunteer gets their own T-shirt. With certain tasks, you can volunteer and run, too! If you can help, please call the run management company at 668-2243, and ask for Nancy.

## *Special Offer*

The Rosicrucian Museums in San Jose are offering Academy members free admission to their facility for the month of November. This generous offer acknowledges the Academy's Geology Department donation of specimens to their new mineral exhibit. Dr. Jean DeMouthe, Collections Manager of the Geology Department, also assisted them with the text for their new exhibit.

The museums' highlight is the Egyptian Museum which houses the largest Egyptian collection on exhibit in the West. The museums also include a Contemporary Art Gallery and a Planetarium and Science Center.

Hours for the Museums are Tues.–Sun., 9 am to 5 pm. Show your Academy membership card for free admission. Call (408) 287-2807 for more information.

## *Academy Travel*

Frank Almeda

*Tortuguero National Park, Costa Rica*

**Costa Rica Natural History with Dr. Frank Almeda**
January 25–February 10, 1992

Join Frank as he returns once again to this treasure trove of biological diversity. Known as the "Garden of the Americas," this tiny country boasts some of the finest wildlife and nature preserves in the world. From its pristine coastline to its volcanic craters, Costa Rica's complex topography harbors some 10,000 species of plants, over 800 species of birds, and countless other creatures of interest such as howler monkeys, sea turtles, golden toads, three-toed sloths and brilliantly colored butterflies.

Here's what one member had to say about our 1991 Costa Rica trip: "Frank is outstanding. His enthusiasm was contagious. His keen knowledge opened many new observations for me. It was a great experience I shall always treasure." Don't miss out on this wonderful trip — several places have already been taken! $3,450 + $640 airfare.

Other upcoming trips include: **Antartica & the Falklands 12/7–12/23; Baja Camping & Whale Watching 2/1–2/8; Dominica Natural History 3/4–3/12; Baja — Cruising the Sea of Cortez 4/1–4/8; Madagascar Discovery 4/13–5/1; Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan 4/27–5/17; Australia — Across the Top End 5/13–5/31; Highlands and Islands of Scotland 6/5–6/20; Tropical Fiji 6/20–7/2.** Call (415) 750-7222 for more information.

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## *Free First Wednesday*

*October 2*

Aislinn Scofield

*Larry Reed and his shadow puppets.*

The Academy celebrates Indonesia on October 2 with special programs from 5-8:00 pm. Come to the Indonesia Cafe and dine on food from Jakarta Indonesia Restaurant. Watch a puppet show performed by Larry Reed and listen to Indonesian music. Join in an hands-on activity for kids and adults and then relax in Morrison Planetarium in the Concert Under the Stars. You may visit the Biodiversity Resource Center and learn about Indonesian culture at the Science in Action booth. It's all happening from 5-8 pm on October 2. This program is funded through a generous grant from the Otis Spunkmeyer Foundation.

## *Volunteers Needed for Pepperwood*

In the cool days of Fall, come enjoy the beautiful colors of the Academy's Pepperwood Ranch Natural Preserve. Two volunteer work-days are scheduled during the peak of the autumn color, Sunday, October 20 and Saturday, November 9. We will be cleaning up the preserve by removing old fences amidst the gorgeous golds, yellows and oranges of the season. Each work-day will be followed by a potluck dinner.

For more information and to sign up, please call Rosalind Henning at Volunteer Services, 750-7154. If you want to volunteer closer to home, call about opportunities in The Discovery Room.

*The Academy Store and Pacific Discovery present:*

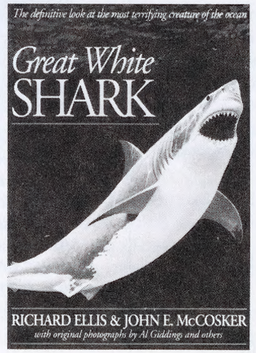
## *"Nature Writers at the Academy"*

*Sunday, October 27, 6–9 pm*

Nature and travel writers will be discussing and autographing their newly released books in a special program at the Academy in conjunction with the San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival. This special event kicks off a week filled with literary activities throughout the Bay Area. Some of the featured authors and their books are:

Leon Adams and *The Wines of America*; David Cohen and *The Circle of Life: Rituals from the Human Family Album*; John Harte and *Toxins A to Z*; Michael Hodgson and *The Basic Essentials of Minimizing Impact on the Wilderness*; Malcolm Margolin and *East Bay Out*; Bill McMillon and *Volunteer Vacations*; Carole Terwilliger Meyers and *San Francisco Family Fun*; Carl Parkes and *Southeast Asia Handbook*; Jim Rawls and *Doctor History's Whiz Bang*; Ray Riegert and *Hidden Coast of California*; Margit Roos-Collins and *The Flavors of Home*; Tom Stienstra and *Great Outdoor Getaways to the Bay Area and Beyond*; Mitch Waite and *Fractals*; and David Rains Wallace and *The Vermillion Parrot*.

The Academy's Dr. John McCosker will give a special, illustrated talk on his new book, *Great White Shark*. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. For information, call 750-7116.


The definitive look at the most terrifying creature of the ocean
Great White
SHARK
RICHARD ELLIS & JOHN E. McCOSKER
with original photographs by Al Giddings and others

## *Traditional Arts*

The Academy's Traditional Arts Programs bring unique cultures from around the world into the heart of Golden Gate Park. Performances are at 1 pm in Morrison Auditorium or Wattis Hall of Human Cultures and are free after general admission. These programs are possible through a generous grant from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation.

Our October programs focus on the artistic heritage of Indonesia, in conjunction with Festival of Indonesia 1991, a nationwide celebration of Indonesian culture. Similar art programs are scheduled at other Bay Area institutions throughout the year. For a calendar of events, call the Festival office at (212) 213-5810.

**October 5** — Made Surya demonstrates the carving of Balinese masks, customarily used in sacred dance dramas during temple festivals. Masks depict mythological characters representing good or evil, such as the ferocious Demon King *(barong)*, the Clown, or the Pig-Headed King.

**October 12** — Christina Wirawan prepares sate, a dish made from skewered beef served with a peanut sauce.

**October 19** — Judy Slattum and Made Surya perform *topeng*, Balinese ceremonial masked dance associated with ancestor worship. Often the dance dramas are based on stories from the Hindu epic "The Mahabharata." Surya and Slattum will interpret the meaning of some of the stylized gestures and movements in the ritual dances.

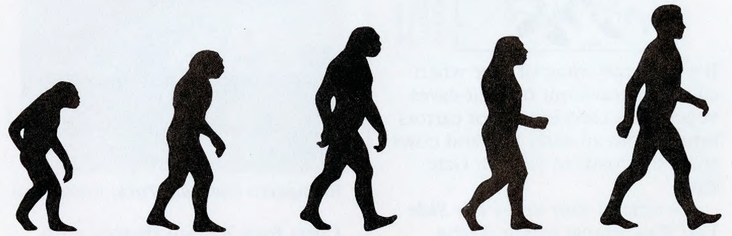
**October 26** — Gamelan Angklung Kembang Sari and the orchestra's guest artistic director, I Wayan Sujana, perform Balinese music on typical gamelan instruments, including the *gangsas* (10-keyed metallophones), the *reong* (horizontal row of 12 gongs), and the *tawa tawa* (drums). The traditional contexts for gamelan angklung performances in Bali are cremation ceremonies *(ngaben)* and temple ceremonies *(odalan)*.

*Lecture*

*The California Academy of Sciences and The LSB Leakey Foundation present:*
*The Allen O'Brien Memorial Lecture:*

## *"Adventures With The Missing Link"*

*Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 pm*



Until fairly recently, theories on the origins of humankind and the nature of evolution were based on isolated teeth and skull fragments. Today, the steady recovery of fossils with nearly complete skeletons provides the basis for far-reaching interpretations. Two scientists who work at one of the world's most significant fossil recovery sites will discuss their most recent discoveries — findings that fuel debate not only on human origins but also on human survival and possible extinction.

Paleontologists Alan Walker and Meave Leakey will discuss their work at Kenya's Turkana Basin. Estimated to be between 5 and 5.5 million years old, the site's particular value lies in its potential for the recovery of hominid fossils.

The veteran of more than 20 years of field excavations, Alan Walker is a professor of cell biology and anatomy at Johns Hopkins University's School of Medicine. Meave Leakey is the head of the Division of Paleontology of the National Museums of Kenya.

Tickets to this exhilarating presentation are $5 members/$7 non-members. Please use the order form below to order your tickets. Call 750-7128 for more information.

### Ticket Order Form

____ Nov. 12 "Adventures With The Missing Link," 7:30 pm

____ Nov. 19 "The Wild Cats of Thailand," 7:30 pm

_____ $5 members _____ $7 non-members

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Please send **separate checks** for each lecture payable to the California Academy of Sciences and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
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California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

*Lecture and Booksigning*

## *Dr. Alan Rabinowitz and the Wild Cats of Thailand*

*Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7:30 pm*

Michael Dick

Alan Rabinowitz is one of the world's foremost experts on large cats, and his work has been instrumental in the establishment of several international parks and reserves. He recently spent three years in Thailand's Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary where he studied and tracked civets, leopards, Indochinese tigers and several other wildcat species to determine their behavior patterns and densities, and to help formulate protective conservation action.

Thailand is a country often celebrated for its natural beauty, but its wildlife is in rapid decline. The combined pressures of poaching and deforestation threaten animal life even within designated reserves. This adventurous scientist and explorer struggled to reconcile his Western values with the many contradictions he found in this exotic land. He observed that despite the Buddhist aversion to killing, Bangkok is one of the largest centers for illegal wildlife trade in the world.

Rabinowitz is the author of *Jaguar* (1986) and *Chasing the Dragon's Tail*, the recently released account of his field work in Southeast Asia. Both of these books will be available in the Academy Store which will be open before and after the lecture. Tickets for this special program are $5 members/$7 non-members. Please use the adjacent coupon to order your tickets. Call 750-7128 for lecture information.

Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, California 94118-4599
(415)221-5100

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October 1991

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Golden Gate Park



# Calendar of Events

## October

5 Traditional Arts, 1:00 pm
8 World Wildlife Films, 7:00 pm
9 Members' Meetings, 2:00 and 7:30 pm
10 Members' Meeting, 7:30 pm
12 Traditional Arts, 1:00 pm
16 World Wildlife films, 7:00 pm
19 Traditional Arts, 1:00 pm
20 Volunteer Day at Pepperwood
22 "Universe" Series, 7:30 pm
24 World Wildlife films, 7:00 pm
26 Traditional Arts, 1:00 pm
27 "Nature Writers at the Academy," 6–9 pm
30 Financial Seminar, 4:30–6:30 pm
30 World Wildlife films, 7:00 pm

## November

9 Volunteer Day at Pepperwood
12 "Universe" Series, 7:30 pm
12 Lecture, "Adventures with the Missing Link," 7:30 pm
13 Members' Meetings, 2 & 7:30 pm
14 Members' Meeting, 7:30 pm
19 Lecture, "Wild Cats of Thailand," 7:30 pm

# The Academy Store

*Academy artist, Lynette Cook of the Morrison Planetarium, has created breathtaking artwork for the Store's new, astronomical mug set available in early October. This set of four, black ceramic mugs includes two mugs depicting the near and distant planets of our own solar system, as well as two mugs dramatically illustrating comets and galaxies. They are out of this world and available for only $24.95 per set of four.*